

About the Author

Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1809. Both of his parents had died by the time he was three. He was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. John Allan of Richmond, Virginia, where he lived until 1827. He was sent to school in England and Richmond. Poe then spent a year at the University of Virginia before he enlisted in the army. Between 1827 and 1831 he published three volumes of poetry. In 1833 he won a short story competition. He later worked on magazines in Richmond, New York, and Philadelphia, writing stories, poems, essays, and book reviews. Many of his most famous stories, including "The Fall of the House of Usher," were written for these magazines. He won another short story competition with "The Gold Bug" in 1843. It was at this time that Poe first developed the mystery story, including "The Murders in the Rue Morgue." By January of 1845, when his poem "The Raven" was published, Poe had become the most talked-about writer of his time. He died in October 1849.

Poe is still considered one of the greatest American writers. His short stories are famous all over the world. These stories have earned him the title of Father of the Short Story in America.

Poe is also the Father of the Detective Story. His detective, Dupin, later became a model for another famous detective, Sherlock Holmes, created by Arthur Conan Doyle.

Edgar Allan Poe also wrote some of the greatest poetry in American literature. His poems are full of magic, mystery, melody, and beautiful sounds.

Finally, the literary essays and book reviews he wrote have won Poe another title, Father of Literary Criticism in America.